

**Law Enforcement Division**  
**Bi-Weekly Field Report**  
**2/18/13 – 3/3/13**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Mark Leadman seized several illegal snares he found on public land. He then received a complaint of stolen snares on public land. CO Leadman contacted the complainant, conducted an interview and obtained a confession from the complainant, who assumed full responsibility for the illegal snares. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Ryan Aho assisted the Upper Peninsula law enforcement drug team with the execution of a search warrant. During the search, unsealed and untagged wildlife specimens were found. Evidence of operating an unlicensed taxidermy business was also obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach assisted a Wisconsin Warden with interviews of three Michigan subjects. The three men were operating snowmobiles in Wisconsin near the Michigan border at about 3:00 a.m. and failed to stop at a road crossing where the warden was patrolling. Two of the three subjects fled when the officer activated his emergency lights and attempted to make a stop. The two subjects then fled from Wisconsin into Michigan on their snowmobiles. The warden was able to identify all three subjects. All three face a variety of charges in Wisconsin; however, since the two subjects who fled also entered into Michigan, they are facing felony flee and elude and felony obstruction charges in Michigan as well. One subject stated that it was a pretty dumb choice to run, turning a potential minor ticket into felony violations.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted a snowmobile patrol in Dickinson County and encountered one group of operators with multiple registration and trail permit violations. One of the snowmobiles in the group was last registered in 2000. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Bacon and Jason Wicklund contacted four different anglers for not wearing helmets on their snowmobiles. While educating the groups on the safety issue, the COs found two of the snowmobiles were also unregistered.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Mike Evink assisted Manistique Public Safety with a snowmobile vs. train incident. The snowmobile operator had missed a trail turn and ended up on railroad tracks. While attempting to find a way back to the trail, his sled then became stuck on a track switch. He then heard the train coming. He was able to get away from the track before the train hit his sled. The train was able to stop a half mile down the track.

CO Mike Evink worked a joint patrol with the Sault Tribal Law Enforcement. During the patrol, they located five tip-ups that were not attended. One person's name was on all

five tip-ups. When contacted, the subject advised that fishing was slow so he left the tip-ups and went home to take a nap, but was planning to come back that night. Tickets were issued for the extra lines and for leaving lines unattended.

COs Jared Ferguson and Jerry Fitzgibbon checked anglers on Little Bay De Noc over the weekend. As they headed toward one angler's ice shack, the angler got on his snowmobile and drove away. When they arrived at the shack, they saw the name on it was not readable. They were able to contact the angler later and had him return to his shack. Once there, it was suggested that he write his name on the shack. When he opened his ice shack door to retrieve a permanent marker, the COs saw a set line in the hole. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma was on routine patrol when he encountered two subjects operating snowmobiles with children on board. The two adult operators were wearing helmets but the children were not. When asked why the children weren't wearing helmets, the subject explained that he thought that under the new motorcycle law the kids didn't need helmets. After a few moments the subject realized how silly the comment was and received his ticket without further argument.

CO Kyle Publiski was first on scene at a snowmobile accident. The subjects were uninjured, but the sled was badly damaged. It was then learned that the sled was a "rental". When notified, the local rental company came out and delivered another snowmobile for their customer. Off the subject went and within two miles he piled up the new sled into a group of trees, which completely totaled the second sled. CO Publiski was first on scene once again, and found the careless operator and his passenger were all right other than some minor bumps and bruises. CO Publiski recommended to the rental business that they might not want to give the subject a third sled. The wife of the subject also agreed, as she was involved in both accidents riding on the back as her husband took her on the ride of her life.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Erratt received an anonymous complaint about a deer being shot on the Presidents' Day holiday. CO Erratt talked to the homeowner and his family, who admitted a friend who was staying at their house shot the deer with his rifle. CO Erratt seized the rifle and the venison. CO Erratt then interviewed the shooter, who denied being at the house that day. CO Erratt called his friend and asked if they could all meet to investigate further. The suspect then admitted shooting the deer. A warrant is being sought for taking a deer during the closed season.

CO Andrea Erratt received a call from a local deputy who said an angler had retrieved an ORV from the bottom of Lake Charlevoix and was asking for a salvage title. CO Erratt explained he could not have a salvage title and that they needed to find the rightful owner. CO Erratt ran a check on an old decal on the ORV and was able to get the owner's name and address. The CO talked to the owner, who said he was going to retrieve the ORV in May after the ice melted. CO Erratt explained that the ORV was

leaking oil and gas in the lake and he should have immediately reported going through the ice. The owner was ticketed and given warnings on several violations.

CO Andrea Erratt checked an angler on Lake Charlevoix who said he fishes there all the time. CO Erratt asked the angler for his license and he said it was in his truck. He told CO Erratt he'd purchased it in the spring. A check of the retail sales system revealed the angler had not purchased a fishing license since 2009. CO Erratt walked back out to the angler and said she needed to check his license because it was not showing up in the license system. He apologized for misleading CO Erratt and said he had quit buying fishing licenses when he turned 65, and he figured he would get checked someday and get a ticket. He figured correctly and received a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Matt Theunick reports the three defendants from the Bois Blanc Island deer case, involving a trophy buck which was taken while road hunting and trespassing and then hidden on a lighthouse in Lake Huron, have pled guilty. Convictions include recreational trespass and transporting an untagged deer. In addition to fines and court costs, \$1,000 reimbursement for the illegally taken deer, and forfeiture of the rifle used was included in the sentencing. The venison was donated to the Salvation Army food bank.

COs Matt Theunick and Eric Bottorff worked with the Tuscarora Township police on an investigation involving a snowmobile that went through Burt Lake and was abandoned. Footprints indicated the driver had left the scene with another snowmobiler. The snowmobile was removed and the investigation continues.

A snowmobiler was running across the open water near the Grand Lake outlet and sank his sled. CO Jon Sklba investigated and assured the snowmobile was removed. The operator received a ticket for careless operation.

CO Kelly Ross was patrolling snowmobile trails when he came into contact with a vehicle parked on the snowmobile trail. When CO Ross contacted the driver of the vehicle it was discovered that he was hunting coyote and was in possession of an uncased and loaded gun in the vehicle. The driver was ticketed for the loaded firearm.

CO Nick Torsky was patrolling the Pigeon River Country when he observed anglers on a closed trout lake, and after watching them for some time, made contact with them. They stated they didn't know the lake was closed but were well versed with what lakes had been stocked and the closures on other lakes in the area. The anglers were ticketed for their violations.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted local deputies and medical personnel with a welfare check. Concerned friends advised that a person with diabetic issues was not answering their calls. CO Hopkins was able to get to the residence and located the diabetic person who was without insulin and in need of medical assistance. Due to the slippery

incline of the driveway, CO Hopkins had to use her patrol truck's tow strap to tow both the sheriff department's car and then the responding ambulance up the steep driveway to the residence. The person was then transported to Munson hospital by the ambulance without incident.

COs Rebecca Hopkins and Justin Vanderlinde observed a subject leaving Upper Herring Lake in Benzie County at approximately 7:30 p.m. After the subject had left the area, the COs walked the lake where the subject had been fishing and located four tip-ups and two set lines still out. The officers set up surveillance and at approximately 10:30 p.m. observed the same subject come back onto the lake. Before the COs contacted him the subject pulled three fishing lines, different than the previously located six fishing lines. The subject was ticketed for having unattended fishing lines.

CO Rich Stowe responded to a citizen assist in the Vasa Trail Area. Motorists had followed their GPS unit directions to the Vasa Trailhead but had taken a route not accessible in the winter by a motor vehicle. Following their GPS unit, the motorist managed to get as far as two miles away from any plowed roads before getting stuck. CO Stowe was able to locate the motorists and transport them back to a main road and safety. The following day, CO Stowe assisted them with retrieving their motor vehicle as no tow truck services had the ability to get to their stuck vehicle.

CO Rich Stowe received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint regarding a subject leaving unattended tip-ups on Lake Leelanau. CO Stowe and Sgt. Robert Torres responded to the area and based on the complaint information located a tip-up that had been set the previous night and that was frozen into the ice. CO Stowe was able to ascertain the owner of the tip-up from interviewing anglers nearby and using the name and address on the set tip-up. When contacted the subject claimed he had forgotten to pull his tip-up the previous night. CO Stowe also noted that the angler was a nonresident but had purchased a resident fishing license back in May of 2012. Enforcement action was taken.

Area 4-2 Conservation Officers conducted a joint snowmobile patrol in Manistee County to address high volume of snowmobile traffic and persons operating carelessly on the roadways. Several subjects failing to stop at stop signs, operating at excessive speeds, operating on the wrong side of the road and failing to register their sleds were stopped, ticketed and/or warned during the patrol.

CO Steve Converse obtained a warrant for a hunter who took an overlimit of deer after purchasing a second firearm deer license. The subject had already successfully filled his first firearm license with a buck.

CO Carla Soper received information regarding a subject who had sunk his snowmobile after attempting to operate it across the Manistee River. When CO Soper contacted her local dispatch to get more information on the incident, she was advised that the snowmobile operator was now claiming that someone had removed his sled from the river and taken it. CO Soper and a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper responded to

the scene and found and interviewed the owner of the snowmobile. An investigation of the incident is ongoing and law enforcement action was taken for reckless operation of a snowmobile.

CO Brian Lebel was on patrol and observed a snowmobile disregard a stop sign. CO Lebel activated his emergency lights while the operator of the snowmobile fled. CO Lebel was able to track the snowmobile back to a residence and make contact with the intoxicated operator, who admitted to the violations. The subject stated that he did not want to go back to prison and was on parole for fleeing and eluding police. The operator is facing multiple charges including parole violations, fleeing and eluding, reckless operation, operating with a suspended license, fail to transfer title, expired registration, no trail permit and operating under the influence of alcohol. CO Mike Wells assisted with the investigation.

CO Troy Mueller was on snowmobile patrol checking registrations and trail permits when he encountered a suspicious looking trail permit. Upon further inspection, CO Mueller determined the operator of the snowmobile altered his small game hunting license to the approximate size of a trail permit and used a marker to make a valid expiration date. The operator affixed this fraudulent trail permit to the windshield of his snowmobile in an attempt to fool the CO checking permits on the trail. Enforcement action was taken to address the violation.

CO Troy Mueller was checking the Muskegon River access site and observed two ORVs operating on the roadway. CO Mueller followed the ORVs and observed them operate onto the White Pine Snowmobile Trail. CO Mueller activated his emergency lights and contacted the operators. Both subjects had open intoxicants and admitted to knowing that they were not allowed to operate on the snowmobile trail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was reviewing fur harvester registrations and located a suspicious sealing. CO Wells interviewed the subject who was on record for sealing the otters. CO Wells obtained a confession from this subject that she allowed someone else to use her otter kill tags and then seal the hides in her name. CO Wells followed up with the licensed trapper responsible for taking the illegally sealed otters and discovered an additional illegal otter that was taken. CO Wells issued tickets to both subjects and all illegal hides were seized.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Matt Liestenfeltz and Mike Hearn received a complaint of coyote hunters possibly trespassing and not wearing hunter orange. The COs responded and contacted subjects in a motor vehicle with a loaded uncased firearm. Three small children were also in the vehicle, some of whom were in car seats. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn received complaints of snowmobiles trespassing on a posted farm field. Officer Hearn stopped a subject operating a snowmobile across the farm field and the subject stated he thought the field was state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz contacted a coyote hunter who had a loaded gun in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling on Lake Missaukee, CO Matt Liestenfeltz found numerous fishing violations, including fishing with too many lines, no licenses, and unattended lines. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Nick Atkin conducted surveillance for several hours on an angler who was ice fishing and caught several perch but did not throw any back. Finally the angler positioned himself so the CO could quietly make contact. As the CO got closer, the angler noticed the CO and quickly started throwing perch back into the hole in the ice. The CO ran to the subject and ordered him to step away from the perch. The angler continued to throw fish back into the hole in the ice. The CO had to remove the angler from the perch to stop him from throwing the perch back. The CO collected the perch and found the angler in possession of 64 perch. Enforcement action was taken.

While traveling on a county road, COs Seth Rhodea and Josh Wright were passed by a vehicle travelling at a high rate a speed. The COs were able to determine the subject was driving over 90 mph and a traffic stop was made on the vehicle. Upon approaching the driver, CO Rhodea asked him why he was driving so fast. The driver said that he had just had a big argument with his wife. CO Rhodea then asked the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his girlfriend's house. A ticket was issued.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted two snowmobile operators after observing that both sleds had expired registrations. In addition, both operators failed to have the sleds transferred into their names after purchasing the machines, and one operator was driving on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Seth Rhodea and Josh Wright contacted a subject coyote hunting who had an uncased firearm in his motor vehicle. While checking the hunter's small game license, CO Wright questioned the hunter about his success during the past deer season. The hunter advised that he had shot one buck. CO Wright then asked him about an unused firearm tag he handed the CO. The hunter advised the officer he purchased a second firearm tag after using his first. A ticket was issued for the uncased firearm and a warning given for purchasing too many firearm deer tags.

While checking ice anglers in Sebewaing, CO Bob Hobkirk announced his presence to an angler fishing inside an ice shanty. The angler asked the CO to wait a moment so he could move his heater. As CO Hobkirk waited, he heard the subject dumping something

down his fishing hole. When the shanty was opened, the angler stated that he had sorted his fish and had put back some smaller ones. He still had what he believed to be 50 perch in his bucket, a legal limit. After taunting the CO for not catching him with an overlimit, he was not happy when CO Hobkirk counted his fish and found that he was still over his limit. The angler was ticketed for having an overlimit of perch.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling Bay County when he observed a group of hunters running dogs on coyotes. After observing for a while, he was able to determine which vehicles were the possible shooters and which one were handling the dogs. The CO stopped the shooter vehicles and located a total of five guns inside the vehicle, two loaded handguns and three long guns. Further investigation revealed one of the rifles was also loaded in both the barrel and magazine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the Saginaw River where hundreds of anglers were catching a lot of Walleye, most of which were under the legal limit of 15". During a check, CO Foerster located a 12" Walleye wrapped in a potato chip bag and hidden inside of an ice shanty. After numerous pleas from the angler to overlook the violation, enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith was working an early morning patrol targeting coyote hunters for safety violations. Shortly after sunrise, Officer Smith contacted a hunter with a loaded, uncased .243 rifle sitting on the passenger seat of his truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee was checking anglers on the Saginaw River when he contacted two anglers. When the CO asked if they had any fish, the first angler said they hadn't had any luck. The second man spoke up and told the CO that he hadn't caught anything but his buddy had some fish. The first man's head dropped and he produced several Walleye, one of which was clearly short of 15 inches. A ticket was issued and the CO assured the second man that he would have found the short fish even if he hadn't said anything.

While patrolling Littlefield Lake, CO Jeremy Payne located a group of people shooting clay pigeons on the ice. As the CO got closer to the group he witnessed one of the participants in a mad scramble, pick up a dead rabbit, place it inside his coat and zip it up. When the CO asked him what was inside his coat he replied, "Nothing." This person was unable to provide a small game license to possess this invisible rabbit. Other violations included uncased and loaded firearms in motor vehicles. Enforcement action was taken and the rabbit was seized.

While patrolling a lake in Isabella County, CO Jeremy Payne checked an angler using three tip-ups and one ice fishing rod. When questioned about fishing with too many lines the angler indicated that his wife just picked up his daughter who was fishing with him. Giving the angler the benefit of the doubt, the CO asked to check his fishing license. The angler did not purchase a fishing license in 2012. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg assisted local deputies with a search warrant of a residence whose occupants were suspected of concealing stolen property from recent larcenies. Along with stolen property that was found, the officers also located an untagged illegal deer hanging in the garage. The homeowner admitted to shooting the deer out of season. The deer and firearm were seized and additional enforcement action was taken by the CO.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Greg Patten reports a court conviction of a person who purchased a deer license within one hour of taking the deer to a processor. The sentence included \$1000 in restitution and three year hunting license revocation in a plea agreement for a tagging violation.

CO Chris Simpson was on patrol when he located a snowmobile without a trail permit stuck in a ditch. While checking on the operator, an ORV with two passengers came riding down the paved county road toward CO Simpson. The CO advised the operator that she was not to be on the road, not to have a passenger and was lacking an ORV license for the machine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Simpson was walking along White Lake checking ice anglers when he came across a group of five anglers who became somewhat evasive and uncertain about how many bluegills they had taken and in which buckets each angler had placed fish. After extensive questioning and recounting, CO Simpson ticketed one angler for an overlimit, one for no fishing license and warned another for taking a slight overlimit of panfish.

CO Cary Foster was on patrol in the City of Ionia when he observed a subject operating a snowmobile in a closed park. Upon contacting the operator CO Foster learned that in addition to the local ordinance, the rider also needed a registration, a trail permit and a helmet. Enforcement action was taken and the rider was directed home.

CO Greg Patten was patrolling near the Rouge River SGA when he stopped a person operating a snowmobile with passengers and no helmets. The machine was not registered, had no trail permit and the driver had a suspended operator's license. CO Patten ticketed the driver for operating while suspended and no helmet.

CO Greg Patten investigated a complaint of recyclables being dumped in the Muskegon SGA. After tracking the items to an address nearby, the CO discussed the situation and expected clean up with the resident he contacted. The next day CO Patten learned the homeowner's son and a friend were sent to the recycling center but took an easier option by dumping the items in the SGA. A cleanup of the site is pending snow melt at this location.

CO Dave Rodgers worked at Reeds Lake targeting typical late season panfish overlimit complaints. During his patrol he observed two anglers taking and retaining overlimits of



bluegills and crappies. He ticketed one person for 11 fish overlimit and another for three overlimit.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Jeff Goss responded to a complaint of a dog that had been caught in a snare on property where no one had permission to trap. The CO could see where someone had recently removed several snares from the property, and followed the tracks back onto another parcel of private land. CO Goss located three different illegal snare sets. Violations included no tags, no deer stops, too big of a loop, and too high off the ground. After locating the subject and explaining the multiple violations, tickets were issued for untagged snares and the use of illegal snares.

While on patrol, CO Jeff Goss observed a man standing at the end of his driveway clutching a shotgun. The man glared at CO Goss as he passed, and sensing that something was wrong, CO Goss turned around to make contact. Upon exiting his vehicle CO Goss asked the subject what he was hunting for. He indicated that he was protecting his property from two men down the road. After a few more questions it was obvious that the man was suffering from mental illness. CO Goss told the man that he needed to hold on to his firearm until they had everything sorted out. The man refused to hand over the firearm and a struggle ensued before CO Goss was able to disarm him. After securing the loaded shotgun and checking the man for more weapons, the man was transported to a local hospital for a psychological examination. After hearing the call on the radio, two MSP troopers responded to back up and assist with the encounter.

While patrolling Lenawee County, COs Damon Owens and Jason Smith contacted several anglers and issued tickets for possessing largemouth bass out of season. Two verbal warnings for fishing equipment issues and two ORV verbal warnings were given.

CO Damon Owens assisted MSP troopers with an incident involving a subject who drove his pickup truck off the roadway and into a tree. The driver suffered no serious injuries. A road killed deer was found in the truck bed that the driver had hit a few hours prior to the car/tree accident. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn stopped a coyote hunter after observing him pull into a driveway, and found a loaded shotgun in the bed of the subject's pickup truck. Further investigation revealed that the hunter was driving with a suspended license. When the owner of the vehicle arrived from tracking a coyote with his hunting dog, CO Thorn searched the vehicle and found marijuana under the driver's seat. Enforcement action was taken against both individuals.

CO Todd Thorn assisted a MSP trooper on a complaint of a truck that was stuck on a pipeline in the southeastern portion of Ingham County. CO Thorn was the first to arrive and contacted an intoxicated man who had attempted to drive his truck more than a mile down the pipeline. When the subject was contacted he was spinning his tires that

were up off the ground while the axles rested on railroad ties used by heavy equipment to drive on. The man was turned over to the trooper who transported him to the local jail for operating while impaired..

CO Todd Thorn observed four individuals ice fishing and contacted them. One of the men stated that he left his license in his truck. After he realized that CO Thorn was going to verify whether or not he had purchased a license the man then admitted that he did not have one. During the investigation into his license purchases, it was noted that the same individual had purchased two sets of combination deer licenses during the 2012 deer season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn observed an ice shanty on a small lake near Lansing and also saw that there were five tip-ups set out. As CO Thorn approached the shanty, two individuals came out and walked toward their tip-ups. They stated that they were only using the tip-ups and did not have lines in the water inside their shanty. CO Thorn left and then returned the next day. This time, the same two individuals were using six tip-ups and did not see the CO approach. They were found with lines in the water inside their shanty along with the six tip-ups. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

COs Daniel Prince and Pete Purdy responded to a trespass complaint in progress on Gale Lake in Howell. The COs contacted an angler who had 27 crappies and bluegills, was trespassing on Gale Lake, and did not have a fishing license. Tickets were issued for the violations.

COs Daniel Prince and Pete Purdy observed a subject operating an ORV in the Oak Grove SGA to ice fish on Ball Lake. The COs contacted the subject, who was operating the ORV without a helmet, operating an ORV on a county roadway, and without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller patrolled Lenawee County and saw a large amount of black smoke rising from behind a house. He went to investigate and found two subjects standing over a burn pile. As he pulled up, the fire began to grow and the smoke was pitch black and blowing over a state highway causing a hazard. CO Miller talked to the subjects at the scene and observed several large pieces of rubber, treated wood, wire, and some other plastics on the fire. The subjects were issued a ticket, and some of the material was pulled from the fire.

CO Derek Miller patrolled Devils Lake during a small fishing tournament. He checked several anglers out on foot and came upon a portable shack set up with tip-ups. After announcing his presence, no one answered from the shack. CO Miller checked the shack and found it empty. He went on checking other anglers asking who owned the shack and if they had seen anyone around it. No anglers knew who it belonged to and said that they hadn't seen anyone around it in quite some time. After checking the rest of the anglers in the bay, CO Miller waited near the shack. Finally two subjects came out of the hotel on shore and walked out. They stated that they saw CO Miller standing

around the shack and that they had only been gone about 15 minutes. CO Miller advised them that he had been out on the ice for two hours, and that their flag had been up for approximately 45 minutes. CO Miller issued a ticket for unattended lines.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Kris Kiel was contacted by a MSP trooper who received a complaint of trespassing and illegal snares. The CO walked the property and found four illegal snares and two leghold traps. One leghold trap was baited with peanut butter and none of traps were set in good locations. Combined with the fact that small footprints were found, CO Kiel believed he was dealing with a young trapper. The CO followed the footprints back to a residence where he was greeted by a 15 year old and his father. CO Kiel explained the trapping regulations and issued warnings. The young trapper said that he had watched a couple You Tube videos on how to set traps and snares. A hunting and trapping guide was provided on how to do it legally.

CO Al Schwiderson stopped a pickup truck after the truck pulled out in front of the CO causing him to swerve to miss it. When the CO contacted the operator, the operator stated that he just got the vehicle running and that there were still some problems with the engine. The CO ran the subject through LEIN and found that the subject was suspended and had two warrants out of Oakland County. Sgt. Tom Wanless pulled up to assist and the COs found the plate on the vehicle was improper and expired. The subject was arrested, issued a ticket for driving while license suspended, and turned over to Oakland County authorities.

CO Al Schwiderson received a RAP complaint in progress of a subject who shot a turkey. The CO responded and contacted a female at the residence who said she had not been home but her son may have been. She gave the CO permission to look around. As CO Schwiderson was heading to the back of the property to look for evidence, he observed a light on in a barn. As he looked in the window, he saw a male subject with a turkey in his hand standing next to the ORV the complainant said was used to pick up the bird. When the CO announced his presence, the subject dropped the turkey and attempted to hide in the barn. The CO knocked several times and the subject would not respond. CO Schwiderson went to another window and looked in and saw the subject hiding and talking on his cell phone. After several attempts to get him to come out, the subject finally came out and told the CO the story of the turkey that was hit by a car. After some discussion, the subject admitted to shooting the turkey illegally. His mother was not happy. The bird was seized and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Tom Wanless observed two subjects on an ORV without helmets operating on the roadway causing traffic to slow down. Before the CO could make contact with the subjects, they turned off onto a trail in the Genesee County Parks. The CO drove around the section to see if the subjects came out other side when he observed another ORV with two subjects on it without helmets illegally operating on the roadway. The CO

stopped the father and juvenile team and found additional equipment violations. Enforcement action was taken and the ORV was towed back the subjects' residence.

COs Kris Kiel and Brandon Kieft, along with Intern Ryan Cook, investigated a complaint of a dog caught in an illegal snare. Eight illegal snares and three leghold traps were located surrounding a deer carcass, none of which had identification tags. CO Kieft tracked footprints in the snow back to a residence where a suspect was interviewed and an admission was obtained. Violations included trapping for coyotes during the closed season, untagged traps, snares on a fence, no deer stops, snares not having two swivels, recreational trespass, and possession of a road-kill deer without a permit. A warrant will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint in Oakland County of a subject taking a deer with a .22 rifle out of season. COs Kiel and Todd Szyska conducted an investigation and found drag marks and blood leading back to a residence. The suspect stated that he has problems with the deer eating his landscaping. He claimed that the deer was "about to get tangled in a fence, so he dispatched it." The deer and the firearm were seized and a report will be submitted to the prosecutor for charges.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint of a subject trespassing while rabbit hunting with his dog. The complainant stated he had a verbal altercation with the hunter. When CO Szyska arrived the subject was gone; however, the real property owner was there and was upset that someone ran the hunter off his property because he gave the subject permission. It was determined that the caller was a relative of the property owner.

While checking anglers at Selfridge Access Site, CO Todd Szyska observed an ATV being operated with three occupants on it. Besides being severely overloaded, the ATV riders were not wearing helmets and there was an expired ORV license on the machine. When contacting the operator and the subjects it was determined that they had no helmets at all. While checking each subject's fish, CO Szyska noted spears lashed to the machine. The CO checked the yellow perch and found that the majority had been speared, which was not a problem as it is open on Lake St. Clair until the last day in February. The problem was at the bottom of the bucket CO Szyska found a large crappie that was speared. The operator of the machine admitted that the fish in the bucket were indeed his. Further, running the subjects in LEIN, the operator came back suspended and one of the other occupants on the machine gave the CO a false name. The CO questioned the subject who gave him a false name and the subject finally came clean with his real name, and stated he'd lied because he did not want a ticket. Tickets were issued for illegally taking a species not designated for taking by a spear, operate ORV while suspended, and the subject who lied was issued a ticket for no helmet on ORV. Multiple warnings were given as well.

While patrolling for small game hunters in the Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Dan Walzak heard an inordinate amount of shooting in one specific area, indicating that subjects were target shooting, which is an unlawful act at this particular game area. Upon

contact with the five adult male subjects, CO Walzak observed a ground fire which is also unlawful in the area. In addition, four of the subjects were consuming alcohol while they were shooting which is highly unsafe and possession of alcohol is prohibited at Pointe Mouillee. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft and Intern Ryan Cook responded to a complaint involving a 911 hang up call and a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) that went through the ice on Pontiac Lake. When they arrived on scene, it was determined that no one was in the SUV. Since the 911 hang up call came from the nearby Gale Island in Pontiac Lake, CO Kieft and Intern Cook checked all residences to make sure no help was needed. The owner of the SUV was eventually located and a tow company was called to remove the vehicle.

CO Brandon Kieft obtained a warrant from the prosecutor's office regarding a subject who had illegally killed two deer during the 2012 hunting season. The subject had taken one deer without a valid hunting license and also killed an overlimit of antlered deer over the course of the entire deer season. The case is currently pending in court.

CO Ben Shively contacted three subjects in an ice shanty on Wolverine Lake in Oakland County. Only two of the subjects were fishing but there were three lines inside the shanty and six tip-ups on the ice. One subject admitted to the extra lines, stating he did not know how many lines he was allowed. The subject was ticketed for fishing with more than three lines and given a verbal warning for failing to have his name and address on his tip-ups.